



## @USNPEOPLE WEEKLY WIRE

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or find it online at [www.navy.mil/cnp](http://www.navy.mil/cnp)

## **1.) Officials: Military Likely To Open Most Combat Jobs to Women/ 19 AUG 15 [\[LINK\]](#)**

ASSOCIATED PRESS, Lolita C. Baldor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two women have now passed the Army's grueling Ranger test, and even tougher and more dangerous jobs could lie ahead. The military services are poised to allow women to serve in most front-line combat jobs, including special operations forces, senior officials told The Associated Press.

Based on early talks, officials say the Army, Navy and Air Force likely will not seek exceptions that close any jobs to women. Marine Corps leaders, they say, have expressed concerns about allowing women to serve in infantry jobs and yet may seek an exception.

The services are wrapping up reviews and must make their recommendations to Defense Secretary Ash Carter this fall. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the internal debate.

Even if Marine leaders object, they are likely to meet resistance from senior Navy and Defense Department officials who want the military to be united on this issue.

Undercutting the Marines' reservations is that Special Operations Command is likely to allow women to compete for the most demanding military commando jobs — including the Navy SEALs and the Army's Delta Force — though with the knowledge that it may be years before women even try to enter those fields.

Women have been steadily moving into previously all-male jobs across the military, including as members of the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, best known as the helicopter crews that flew Navy SEALs into Osama bin Laden's compound. Women are also now serving on Navy submarines and in Army artillery units.

Friday will mark another milestone as the two women graduate at Fort Benning, Georgia, from the Ranger school, a physically and mentally demanding two-month combat leadership course. Completing the course lets the two women wear the coveted Ranger black-and-gold tab, but it does not let them become members of the Ranger regiment. Neither woman has been publicly identified by the military.

Longer term, the uncertainty of the Marine decision underscores the wrenching debates going on within the military over the changing role of women, and it reflects the individual identities of the services and how they view their warrior ethos.

Only a handful of jobs in the Navy and Air Force are currently closed to women.

Last year the Navy considered seeking an exception that would have prohibited women from serving on older guided missile frigates, mine-countermeasure ships and patrol coast craft. Some argued that those ships, which are due to be phased out in coming years, would need millions of dollars in construction to add facilities for women and it wasn't worth the expense.

But Navy Secretary Ray Mabus withdrew that plan in a memo late last month that was obtained by the AP. Officials said Navy leaders concluded that since women can serve in all the same jobs on other ships no real exclusion existed.

The Army and Marine Corps, however, have thousands of infantry, artillery and armor jobs that are currently closed to women. There has been a lot of study and debate over whether to open those positions, because they often involve fighting in small units on the front lines, doing physically punishing tasks.

The Marine Corps set up a task force this year to set gender-neutral job standards and determine whether incorporating women into small squads affected unit cohesion or combat readiness. Companies made up of all men and mixes of men and women spent up to three months in California performing a broad range of unit tasks and going through detailed scientific evaluations to see how they did. Senior leaders are reviewing those results.

Army leaders did similar scientific analysis, reviewing all tasks needed to do the combat jobs and have been creating gender-neutral standards that troops will have to meet in order to qualify. Meanwhile, however, the Army began to slowly open some combat positions, including artillery jobs, to women.

In recent days, officials familiar with the discussions said they believe the Army will allow women to seek infantry and armor jobs as well.

Gen. Ray Odierno, who retired last week as Army chief of staff, hinted at that conclusion.

"In order to best manage your talent, you have to pick the best people who can perform to the standards that we have established," Odierno said. "If you can meet the standards that we've established, then you should be able to perform in that (position). And I think that's where we're headed."

In January 2013 then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey signed an order wiping away generations of limits on women fighting for their country, ordering a quarter-million positions open regardless of gender. They called for sweeping reviews of the physical requirements for combat jobs and gave the military services until January 2016 to argue if any positions should remain closed to women.

Throughout the process, all the services have made it clear they will not reduce any standards to allow women to qualify for the most demanding jobs. But they reviewed the requirements for the various combat posts to make sure they were directly related to tasks that had to be done as part of the jobs.

During the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, thousands of women served and fought, and about 160 died.

Dempsey told reporters during that 2013 news conference that he did not rule out women serving as members of special operations forces, although it might be years before they actually qualified.

"I think we all believe that there will be women who can meet those standards," he said.

## **2.) Navy Announces 2015 Stockdale Award Winners/ 21 AUG 15 [\[LINK\]](#)**

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WASHINGTON (NNS) – The Navy announced the 2015 Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award winners, released in NAVADMIN 197/15.

The award was established in honor of Vice Adm. Stockdale whose distinguished naval career symbolized the highest standards of excellence in both personal conduct and leadership. It is presented annually to two commissioned officers on active duty in the grade of commander or below who are serving in command of a single unit and who serve as examples of excellence in leadership and conspicuous contribution to the improvement of leadership in the Navy.

This year's award winners, selected for their inspirational leadership, are:

Cmdr. Matthew J. Duffy, commanding officer of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 112 (VAW-112) is the Pacific Fleet recipient.

Cmdr. Anthony S. Grayson, commanding officer of USS Providence (SSN 719), is the Fleet Forces Command recipient.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony later this year.

The 2015 winners were chosen from among eight outstanding finalists in a review process that included screening at the Fleet Commander level and final selection by a board of senior officers. Nominations for the award come only from commanding officers who are themselves eligible for the award.

Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale, for whom the Stockdale Award is named, articulated five roles for a leader - moralist, jurist, teacher, steward and philosopher.

A Naval Academy graduate and pilot, Stockdale ejected from his A-4E Skyhawk over North Vietnam in September 1965 and was held prisoner and frequently tortured until February 1973. He received the Medal of Honor in 1976 and served as president of the Naval War College from October 1977 until August 1979.

He died in 2005 and is buried at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He is survived by his wife Sybil of Coronado, California, his four sons and eight grandchildren.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cnp/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cnp/).

### **3.) New Ribbon Unveiled For Navy Boot Camp's Best / 20 AUG 15**

NAVY TIMES, Mark D. Faram

Boot camp's top graduates are about to get a new ribbon.

Every sailor graduating from Navy Recruit Training receives the National Defense Service Ribbon. As many as three percent of each weekly graduating class will now earn an additional uniform ribbon: the new Navy Basic Military Training Honor Graduate ribbon.

"RTC recognizes multiple top performing recruits at graduation, but now the recognition is outwardly visible on an honoree's uniform," said Rear Adm. Stephen C. Evans in a statement. Evans commands Navy Service Training Command, which oversees all Navy officer and enlisted accession training except for the Naval Academy.

"Wearing of the Honor Grad Ribbon will be a visible sign to peers and superiors at the recipient's future duty stations that the member demonstrated extraordinary excellence and leadership potential during Basic Military Training and is capable of accelerated and increased leadership positions within the Fleet."

The award is effective immediately. The first 15 honor grads will be awarded their ribbons Aug. 20 and can wear them when they graduate on Aug 21.

If you were a past honor graduate, don't go out and buy one — there are no retroactive awards.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus approved the award Aug. 18, details of which were released in ALNAV message 063/15.

According to a press release, the award was created "to reward recruits for their superb performance during basic military training," the release said. "The Honor Graduate Ribbon will provide a physical recognition of the

sailor's outstanding achievements in academics, physical fitness, recruit leadership and commitment to the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment."

According to the rules, no more than three percent of the graduates from each weekly training group will get the honor grad nod.

The ribbon will rank 83rd in the Navy's award order of precedence, just below the Navy Ceremonial Guard Ribbon and above the Coast Guard Special Operations Ribbon. For comparison, the National Defense Service Ribbon ranks 62nd on that list.

The first Honor Recruits are: SR JAMIE L. MURRAY , SR MATTHEW P. JONES, SR BRITTANY M. WALKER, SR RENATA Y. CHOI, SR CARLIN E. HATCHER, SR RICHARD M. CASSUBE III, SR STEPHEN E. MCGAHEY, SR ALLISON A. RIVERA-MEDINA, SR GARRETT M. FIRESTONE, SR JOSEPH V. AGBINGPADUA, SR JEREMY J. CRYER, SR HUNTER D. MORROW, SR BETHANY M. VIKOWSKI, SR TIMOTHY A. SEYBOLD, SR JAMES D. BELL III.

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Here are six things to know about the PACT program:

- 1) Based on Fleet input and Sailor feedback, a Navy working group has been reviewing ways to improve the Professional Apprenticeship Career Track (PACT) program. The group's goal is to stabilize program inventory, reduce training requirements on the fleet, decrease command personnel turnover and empower command triads.
- 2) To ensure all Sailors have an evaluation period and on-the-job training (OJT) opportunity, effective Aug. 31, we are reinstating the 12 months onboard requirement before PACT Sailors can submit their designation application. Sailors with less than 12 months onboard who have already submitted rating designation application can continue the application process.
- 3) PACT Sailors will continue to use Career Waypoints (C-WAY) – PACT Designation module to request designation. To help increase career opportunities, Sailors are encouraged to take advantage of their command's Career Development Boards and the Career Exploration Module (CEM) within the C-WAY system.
- 4) The monthly application ranking in C-WAY is being modified, moving the time onboard higher in the sort. This change will provide greater weight to experience and allow more time for OJT.
- 5) Progress has been made in providing timely rating designation for PACT Sailors. All eligible PACT Sailors who entered boot camp in fiscal year 2012, Year Group (YG)12, have been given the opportunity for a rating designation and YG13 Sailors are on track to receive designation opportunities by end of September. All YG14 Sailors will receive designation opportunities by end of fiscal year 2016.

6) Work to improve the program based on Fleet input and Sailor feedback continues, including encouraging mentorship, exploring ways to provide greater career opportunities for PACT Sailors, and modifying recruitment goals to help increase opportunity for Sailors to designate into their desired rating.

For more information on PACT program improvements read the NAVADMIN at [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).

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